

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1557 without my signature.

This bill requires the modification of state land use planning priorities to include meeting greenhouse gas emission limits and vehicle miles traveled when addressing new development projects.

By adding “reduces vehicle miles traveled” as a new criterion for state-funded infrastructure, this bill would create an impractical standard for public projects to comply with state planning priorities.

While limiting increases in traffic is important for the achievement of our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, the language of this bill could be interpreted to mean that state-funded infrastructure must result in a net reduction of vehicle miles traveled below existing levels. Such ambiguity will lead to delayed projects and costly litigation.

State agencies and departments, pursuant to various existing statutes, already must consider environmental concerns, including public transit availability, when evaluating and citing new development projects. Our current planning priorities emphasize sustainable growth and infill development, the key implementation steps to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger